

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00344 121609Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

-----129452 122031Z /46

R 121530Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7643

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CG

SUBJECT: AGITATION FOR A SECOND LAWFUL POLITICAL PARTY

REF: KINSHASA 11296 (1977)

1. SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN SOME AGITATION IN RECENT WEEKS FOR A SECOND LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE THIS ISSUE INTO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. WHILE SUCH AGITATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE MOBUTU REGIME WILL ALLOW MORE THAN THE DISSIPATION OF POLITICAL TENSIONS THROUGH HARMLESS RHETORIC. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL FEDERALIST PARTY (PANAFE), ADDRESSED TO SEVERAL ZAIRIAN LEADERS, DEMANDING RECOGNITION AS THE SECOND LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY IN THE COUNTRY. THE LETTER ENUMERATES SEVERAL REASONS WHY SUCH A PARTY SHOULD BE PERMITTED AND WHY THAT PARTY SHOULD BE PANAFE. THIS IS THE FIRST INFORMATION THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SUGGESTING A SPECIFIC PARTY AS ZAIRE'S SECOND OFFICIAL POLITICAL GROUPING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 00344 121609Z

3. IN RECENT WEEKS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE FIRST SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, EMBOFFS HAVE LEARNED THAT NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICIALS HAD ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THE RECONSIDERATION OF ZAIRE'S ONE-PARTY SYSTEM. THESE OFFICIALS ARGUED IN FAVOR OF A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. KALONJI MUTAMBAYI, PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND AN APPARENT VICTIM OF ELECTION FRAUD DURING THE RECENT POLITICAL BUREAU ELECTIONS (REFTEL), IS SAID

TO HAVE LED THE PARLIAMENTARY ATTACK BY ATTEMPTING TO HAVE THE TWO-PARTY ISSUED PLACED ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AGENDA. KALONJI FAILED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GRUMBLING AGAINST THE ONE-PARTY STATE AMONG THE INTELLIGENTSIA HAS BEEN ENDEMIC HERE FOR SOME TIME, THE MOVE TO BRING THE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DEBATE IS A NEW DEPARTURE. THE MOBUTU FORCES EASILY QUASHED OPEN DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND KEPT THE SUBJECT OFF THE OFFICIAL AGENDA. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS A SMALL VICTORY TO HAVE BROACHED THE SUBJECT AT ALL. WHILE THE ISSUE AS A RALLYING POINT FOR ANTAGONISTS OF THE REGIME MAY HAVE BEEN STILLBORN, IT ADDS A NEW FACET TO THE POLITICAL SCENE IN ZAIRE.

5. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE PREDICTIONS BASED UPON PRESENT MANIFESTATIONS OF DISCONTENT. LETTERS AND THREATS EXPRESSING UNHAPPINESS WITH THE REGIME MAY GENERALLY BE CLASSED AS "CHEAP SHOTS". MANEUVERING IN PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER, IS MORE SIGNIFICANT. WHILE KALONJI HAS FAILED IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT, HE WILL HAVE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO BROACH THE SUBJECT IN THE NEWLY-ELECTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, A BODY WHICH SO FAR IS LIVING UP TO PREDICTIONS THAT IT MAY BE MORE INDEPENDENT THAN ITS PREDECESSOR (REFTEL). KALONJI, AND OTHERS, MAY BE EMBOLDENED BY THE PROMISES MOBUTU HAS MADE TO HIS PEOPLE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BY PERCEIVED US/EUROPEAN PRESSURE TO LIBERALIZE. WHILE WE MAY THEREFORE EXPECT FURTHER AGITATION, THESE ATTACKS PROMISE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 00344 121609Z

SCANT HOPE OF A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE REGIME'S PRESENT ONE-PARTY SYSTEM. THE REGIME IS MORE LIKELY TO SEEK WAYS TO PRE-EMPT PUBLIC DEBATE OF SUCH A CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUE FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING "NATIONAL UNITY".
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA00344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780018-1124
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780172/aaaacjbg.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd368be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 11296
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3789001
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGITATION FOR A SECOND LAWFUL POLITICAL PARTY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd368be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014